

Pine Valley Ward Chapel
NW corner of Main and Grass Valley Street
Pine Valley
Washington County
Utah

HABS No. U-60

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

PINE VALLEY WARD CHAPEL

Location: Northwest corner of Main Street and Grass Valley Street, Pine Valley, Washington County, Utah
Latitude: 37° 23' 30" N Longitude: 113° 31' W

Present Owner: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Present Occupant: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Present Use: Chapel

Statement of Significance: This early chapel was designed and built by Ebenezer Bryce, after whom Bryce Canyon National Park was named.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

2. Date of erection: 1868

3. Architect: Ebenezer Bryce

4. Builder: Ebenezer Bryce

5. Original plan and construction: The building is substantially as originally built, except for some modification of detail by replacement of deteriorating materials. The logs for the frame were hand-picked from particularly straight pines. They were then hand hewn to shape and fastened with wooden pins in augered holes, wrapped with green cowhide. The curved ceiling was built over heavy timbers hewn to form an ellipse. The stage proscenium was arched to harmonize with the roof structure. The walls were built on the ground and then tilted up in place. The architecture was modelled after churches in New England in honor of Brigham and Erastus Snow. Indoor plumbing and electricity are being installed at the present time (July, 1968).

B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Building:

Pine Valley was "discovered" in 1855 by pioneer Isaac Riddle while following a stray cow belonging to the members of the Indian Mission of Fort Harmony, Utah. He found excellent timber of aspen, spruce and pine on the hills and in canyons that opened into the Valley, and it was this timber that attracted settlers. The new settlements of Santa Clara, Pinto, Washington and Harmony needed lumber to build, and water was accessible in the canyons for power. It was a natural consequence that a sawmill was built there in the fall of 1855. Isaac Riddle, John Blackburn and Robert Richey purchased the machinery in Salt Lake City. Little farming was done until 1864, and this done more as a test of the irrigation system's effect on farms downstream at Santa Clara. After St. George was settled (in 1861) quite a few settlers moved to Pine Valley, and the lumbering and farming operations expanded. The mines at Silver Reef and Pioche, Nevada also contributed to the town's prosperity.

As the timber lands were cut indiscriminately, this industry fell off and the population began to move away, although timber was cut as late as the 1920's. It is reported that lumber for the pipes of the famed Salt Lake City Tabernacle organ came from Pine Valley. Joseph Ridges, designer and builder of the organ wanted yellow pine free from knots and resin. Trees were carefully selected by Robert Gardner, one of the valley's expert lumbermen, and sent to Salt Lake City.

Ebenezer Bryce was an Australian shipbuilder and a pioneer who raised cattle in the valley which now bears his name, (Bryce Canyon). He built the chapel like a ship, and of it said, "If the floods come it will float, and if the winds blow it may roll over, but it well never crash." He knew of whence he spoke, for it is as sound today as when he built it. It is still used as a chapel and school.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Interview with Miss Bessie Snow, Pine Valley, Utah, by Project Director Paul Goeldner, July 17, 1968.

Original Town Plat, Pine Valley, Utah, Washington County Courthouse, St. George, Utah.

2. Bibliography:

Daughters of Utah Pioneers. Under Dixie's Sun, Washington County.

Larson, Andrew Karl. I Was Called To Dixie, Deseret
News Press, 1961.

Salt Lake Tribune, June 14, 1968. Chapel in Southern
Utah to Note Century of Constant Use.

Prepared by John L. Giusti
July 23, 1968

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest: This early wood frame church was built by an Australian shipbuilder using barnraising techniques.
2. Condition of fabric: Good; undergoing thorough repairs for centennial.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The chapel is a simple, two-story rectangle 32' 3" x 52' 4" excluding steps.
2. Foundations: Sandstone with newer concrete extended below.
3. Wall construction, finish, and color: White painted clapboard, 6 inches to the weather.
4. Structural system, framing: Wood frame. Walls assembled on the ground and raised into position. Joined with wooden pegs and rawhide.
5. Porches and stoops: Front steps are a double stair of twenty risers. The first runs of ten risers each ascend to landings at the front corners. The upper runs of ten risers meet at the front entrance landing. Originally all of wood, the steps and supports have been replaced with concrete but the railing is the original design in wood.
6. Chimneys: One at the east end of gable.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Five panel doors in plain frames.
 - b. Windows: Double. Basement windows are six-over-nine; first floor windows are nine-over-nine; attic windows are six-over-three.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable, covered with wood shingles.
- b. Towers: Plain louvered belfry with gable.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: Auditorium with stage at east end.
 - b. Basement: Originally a large room under the auditorium and a small room under stage.
 - c. Attic: A small finished room above the stage.
2. Stairways: From basement to first floor, a steep straight stair at south wall of stage (being narrowed by remodeling). Stairs start from closed lower level but have open railings at upper landing.
3. Flooring: Three inch pine boards. Stage - original floor, approximately six inch pine boards.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster above T and G reeded wainscot. Wall of auditorium merges with elliptical arched ceiling.
5. Doors: Four-panel
6. Decorative features and trim: Bracketed proscenium arch.
7. Lighting, type of fixtures: Original coal-oil chandeliers and sconces.
8. Heating: Fireplaces in small basement room and stage are sealed up.

D. Site and Surroundings:

- 1. Orientation: Faces Main Street to the southwest.
- 2. Outbuildings: Tithing Office (U-69) at south corner of property.
- 3. Landscaping and walks, enclosures: The setting has always been a large meadow with locust trees around its borders but it has recently been graded and a lawn will be planted.

Prepared by Paul Goeldner, AIA
Supervisory Architect
Utah Project 1968
July 18, 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This record is part of a Utah Survey conducted in the summers of 1967 and 1968 under joint sponsorship of the Historic American Buildings Survey of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation of the National Park Service and the Utah Heritage Foundation.

Field work, historic research and record drawings were done under the direction of Project Supervisor Paul Goeldner, AIA (Texas Tech University) assisted by Project Historian John L. Giusti, AIA (University of Utah). Photographs were made by P. Kent Fairbanks of Salt Lake City.

Student Assistant Architects on the 1967 team were Robert M. Swanson and Charles W. Barrow, (University of Utah). 1968 Student Assistant Architects were Keith Sorenson, Charles D. Harker and Robert Schriever, (University of Utah) and Donald G. Prycer, (Texas A. & M. University).